

# NOT EVEN PAST



## Climate in Context: Historical Precedents and the Unprecedented – Conference Program

Like 41

Tweet



*April 22-23, 2021*

Institute for Historical Studies, University of Texas at Austin

Free and open to the public. Register to attend [here](#).

This conference brings together diverse scholars whose work grapples with the challenges that climate change presents to the discipline of history. Participants will address precedents for this “unprecedented” crisis by uncovering and analyzing the historical roots and analogues of contemporary climate change across a wide range of eras and areas around the world. Can history offer an alternative to visions of the future that appear to be determined by prevailing climate models, and help provide us with new ways of understanding human agency?

## THURSDAY, APRIL 22

9:00-9:15am

### Opening Remarks

[Daina Ramey Berry](#)

Chairperson of the History Department &  
Oliver H. Radkey Regents Professor of  
History  
University of Texas at Austin

[Miriam Bodian](#)

Director of the Institute for Historical  
Studies & Professor of History  
University of Texas at Austin

### Land Acknowledgement

[Luis Cárcamo-Huechante \(Mapuche\)](#)

Director of Native American and Indigenous Studies  
University of Texas at Austin

### Conference Theme Introduction

[Erika Bsumek](#)

Associate Professor of History  
University of Texas at Austin

[Megan Raby](#)

Associate Professor of History  
University of Texas at Austin



9:15-11:00am

## Session I. Emerging Perspectives: A Graduate Student Roundtable

**Mary E. Mendoza** (Commentator), Pennsylvania State University

"An Upwelling of Stone: Climate Change and Infrastructure Agendas in Early Modern India"

**Jonathan Seefeldt**, University of Texas at Austin

"Racial Capitalism and Climate Justice: Historical Perspectives on Environmental Racism in Texas"

**Micaela Valadez**, University of Texas at Austin

"Cultivating Parasitism: Early Modern Insect Crops and the Limits of Commodification"

**Diana Heredia-López**, University of Texas at Austin

"African Americans, Slavery, and the Long History of Environmental Degradation on the Gulf Coast"

**Brooks Winfree**, University of Texas at Austin

"Technological Ambivalence: Skiers and the History of Climate Solutions"

**Jesse Ritner**, University of Texas at Austin

1:00-2:30pm

## Opening Keynote Address



"The Reindeer and the End of the World: Apocalypse, Climate, and Soviet Dreams"

**Bathsheba Demuth**, Brown University



3:00-4:30pm

## Session II. Historicizing Climate

**Megan Raby** (Chair), University of Texas at Austin

"Beyond Numbers: Knowing Typhoons in Late Imperial China"

"The Anthropocene and Epistemological Colonialism: The 18th-Century Spanish



[Clark L. Alejandrino](#), Trinity College  
Hartford

"Degrees of Vulnerability: Why We Need a  
Feminist History of Climate Science"

[Deborah Coen](#), Yale University

American Origins of Humboldt's Global  
Histories of the Earth and Climate  
Change"

[Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra](#), University of  
Texas at Austin

"Measuring Climate by Proxy"

[Melissa Charenko](#), Michigan State  
University & IHS Fellow

5:00pm

Virtual Reception: All Panelists Welcome for Informal Discussion

## FRIDAY, APRIL 23

8:00-8:15pm

Opening Remarks

[David Mohrig](#)

Associate Dean for Research, Jackson School of Geosciences  
University of Texas at Austin



8:15-9:45am

Session III. Contextualizing the Climate Crisis

[Tracie Matsik \(Chair\)](#), University of Texas at Austin

"Skin and Fuel: Some Episodes from the  
Fossilization of Whiteness"

[Andreas Malm](#), Lund University

"States of Second Nature"

[Victor Seow](#), Harvard University

"The Cene Scene: Modernization Myths,  
Navajo Coal Development, and the  
Making of Arizona"

[Andrew Curley](#), University of Arizona

"Agency and Scale in the Historical  
Making of the Climate Crisis"

[Christopher Sellers](#), Stony Brook  
University & IHS Fellow

10:15-11:45am

Session IV. Practicing What We Preach: A Roundtable

[Erika Bsumek \(Chair\)](#), University of Texas at Austin

"We Use the Living Earth to Make Our  
Histories"

[Andrea Gaynor](#), University of Western  
Australia

"Writing History into the IPCC's Sixth  
Assessment Report"

[Paul N. Edwards](#), Stanford University

"Rural Black Social Life in the Chesapeake  
After the 1933 Great Hurricane"

[J. T. Roane](#), Arizona State University

"Isn't all Environmental Humanities

'Environmental Humanities in Practice?'"

[Dolly Jørgensen](#), University of Stavanger

"Louisiana: Race, Justice, and the  
Ecological Legacies of the Plantation  
Economy"

[Justin Hosbey](#), Emory University



12:00-1:30pm

Working Lunch for all Panelists

2:30-4:00pm

Session V. Going Public with Climate History: A Roundtable

[Joan Neuberger \(Chair\)](#), University of Texas at Austin

"Specific Constraints for a Universal Challenge: Navigating Resources and Space to Create a History of Climate Science Exhibition"

[D. O. McCullough](#), American Philosophical Society

"When Will It Be Over? Water, Flood, Toxics, and the Duration of Colonial Legacies in Philadelphia"

[Bethany Wiggin](#), University of Pennsylvania

"Indian Ocean Current"

[Prasannan Parthasarathi](#), Boston College

"Modeling Virtual Angkor: An Evolutionary Approach to a Single Urban Space"

[Tom Chandler](#), Monash University & [Adam Clulow](#), University of Texas at Austin

4:15-4:30pm

Concluding Remarks

[Erika Bsumek](#)

Associate Professor of History  
University of Texas at Austin

[Megan Raby](#)

Associate Professor of History  
University of Texas at Austin

4:30-6:00pm

Closing Keynote Address

[Naomi Oreskes](#), Harvard University

Photo Credits:

**Banner Image:** [Research@MSU](#), Michigan State University; **Session 1:** [NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory: Greenland, Iceland, & Gulf Coast Deployment](#); **Photograph of Bathsheba Demuth;** **Session 2:** *A black blizzard over Prowers County, Colorado, 1937. Source: Western History Collection, University of Oklahoma;* **Session 3:** Photo by [Frans Van Heerden](#) from [Pexels](#); **Session 4:** Photo by [Pixabay](#) from [Pexels](#); **Session 5:** [Patch: Fairfax Controlled Burn Planned](#); **Photograph** of [Naomi Oreskes](#)

*Posted April 22, 2021*

[More Climate in Context, IHS & Public History](#)

## RECENT POSTS

[IHS Podcast: Hungry for Revolution](#)

[The McFarland Cuban Plantation Records](#)

[IHS Podcast – Episode 3: "Apache Diaspora in four hundred years of colonialism vs 'Toltec Antiquities' Diaspora in Early Republican Mexico"](#)

[Workshop: "The Mexican Empire and Indigenous Texas, 1821-1823" by Sheena Cox, University of Texas at Austin](#)

[This is Democracy: Shadow Docket and Abortion](#)

NOT EVEN PAST is produced by

The Department of History

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

We are supported by the College of Liberal Arts  
And our **READERS**

DONATE

CONTACT

All content © 2010-present NOT EVEN PAST and the authors, unless otherwise noted

Sign up to receive the monthly Not Even Past newsletter

Your email address

SUBSCRIBE

FEATURES

BOOKS

TEACHING

DIGITAL & FILM

BLOG

IHS

TEXAS

SPOTLIGHT

ABOUT

